**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

Complete the following, from Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 51-58

**Website that support online communities**

**Wikis**

1. Describe the nature of a wiki.

A wiki is a website that allows users to enter and communally edit its content. The website may consist of any number of interlinked webpages that can be edited via a web browser using a simple text editor or, in some cases, a simplified markup language.

1. What are strengths of wikis?

Wiki are collaborative projects that allow visitors to read what the community has written, and by clicking an ‘edit’ button they can contribute to or edit the knowledge contained on the page.

1. Distinguish between, public, protected and private wikis.

A public wiki is the page that everyone can view and edit. A protected wiki is the page that you only can view but can’t edit. A private wiki is the page that only allows a few people to view and edit.

1. What is meant by soft security?

Soft security usually refers to security that protects something from harm in quiet and unobtrusive ways, often invisibly and after the fact, rather than with visible barriers before the fact. Soft security can refer to immediate security measures, such as silent burglar alarms or motion detectors, but often refers to more elaborate social security systems such as the "moral network" in a tightly-knit community — for example, a cluster of friends on a busy city street.

**Blogs**

1. What is a blog?

Blog is a website that has only one main page and acts like an online journal or diary.

1. Distinguish between a blog and a wiki.

A blog is usually maintained by a single author who makes regular entries that include comments, descriptions, news on a particular topic or person, images and videos.

**Forums**

1. Describe the nature of a forum.

An internet forum is an online message board or discussion website that supports online communities that wish to facilitate information exchange.

1. What is a thread?

A thread is a collection of posts, displayed from oldest to latest.

**Purpose of an online community:**

1. To broadcast information and events using various tools
   1. List tools for broadcasting information.

* A simple website
* A blog set up for the organisation
* An email mailing list
* A Twitter account
  1. What is a RSS feed?

A RSS feed allow users to receive content feeds from a variety of sources, including the latest news headlines.

1. To facilitate discussions, collaboration & information using tools
   1. What is required for collaborative problem solving to work well?

* Behind every successful project there is a team
* A clear purpose ensures success
* Clearly documented processes will prevent misunderstandings
  1. Distinguish between synchronous and asynchronous collaboration.

Synchronous tools enable real-time communication and collaboration in a "same time-different place" mode.

Asynchronous tools enable communication and collaboration over a period of time through a "different time-different place" mode.

1. To store and develop organisational knowledge
   1. List the tools for knowledge sharing and exchange.

* Wiki
* Microsoft Sharepoint
* Groupwear
* Content Management system

**Characteristics of online communities, p 57**

Be aware of the following:

In setting up an online community characteristics of communities need to be taken into account:

1. Online communities appealing to gender groups

There are many websites that appeal to either men or women.

1. Online communities appealing to special needs

There are many members of our community who have special needs that might prevent them from physically accessing a computer.

1. Online communities appealing to cultural needs

The people and the cultural group that you communities to.

1. Age-restrictive and age-targeted communities

Age can play a significant factor when creating a webpage for a community.

1. Access requirements need also to be considered, (open or closed).

Some websites have the special group that open to or some websites just the public websites.

**Non-Technical Constraints on developing a website for a community, p 58**

1. Ensuring privacy in an online community
   1. Describe the strategies that co-ordinators can put in place to decrease the risk of privacy attacks.

* All requests for membership are properly verified.
* All passwords must have a combination of letters, numbers, symbols and minimum lengths to lower the probability of a ‘hackable’ password.
* Community administrators need to be observant to what to what is happening in the community and quick to pounce on inappropriate behaviour that goes against the protocols of the community.
  1. How does the Information Privacy Act protect privacy?

Administrators of an online community need to be aware of the Information Privacy Act and their responsibilities with the handling and collection of personal information.

1. Copyright in online communities
   1. What copyright considerations need to be taken into account when setting up a community?

When setting up an online community, copyright legislation needs to be taken into consideration.

1. Human rights requirements
   1. What is contained in the Human Rights & Responsibilities Charter that covers members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

An online community should not:

* Encourage hate crimes or the religious vilification of others
* Discriminate on the basis of gender, culture or sexuality
* Encourage the victimisation of members of the community

1. Social online protocols
   1. What is meant by online protocols?

Online protocols are similar to the ‘netiquette’ protocols that most schools have for network use. It give every users a stand or rule for communicated on the online community.